

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for recording a pattern, comprising:  
determining an illumination scheme in response to the pattern; and  
directing, in response to the determination, at least one beam of radiation having a first cross-section towards an saturable absorber so as to allow a portion of said beam to propagate towards a radiation sensitive layer; wherein the portion has a second cross-section that is smaller than the first cross-section.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of directing comprises focusing at least one beam of radiation onto an intermediate layer.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the second cross-section is about half of the first cross-section.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising altering an intensity of the beam of radiation to achieve a certain second cross-section.
5. An system for recording a pattern, comprising:  
a controller, for determining an illumination scheme in response to the pattern;  
and  
optics, coupled to the controller, for directing, in response to the determination, at least one beam of radiation having a first cross-section towards a saturable absorber so as to allow a portion of said beam to propagate towards a radiation sensitive layer; wherein the portion has a second cross-section that is smaller than the first cross-section.
6. The system of claim 5 wherein the optics are adapted to focus at least one beam of radiation onto an intermediate layer.
7. The system of claim 5 wherein the second cross-section is about half of the first cross-section.

8. The system of claim 5 wherein the controller is adapted to control an intensity of the beam of radiation to achieve a certain second cross-section.